

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] of the above referenced patent application [Publication Number US2005/0090476] with the paragraph provided herein below:

[0001] The invention relates to a new process for the preparation of 7.alpha.-methylsteroids. 7.alpha.-Methylsteroids represent an important class of pharmacologically active compounds. One example of a steroid with a methylgroup at the 7-position is (7.alpha.,17.alpha.)-17-hydroxy-7- -methyl-19-norpregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one (Tibolone) which is the active component of LIVIAL® ~~Livial®~~, used as hormone replacement therapy in the treatment of menopausal complaints. Tibolone is a compound exerting tissue-specific hormonal activity. In laboratory and clinical studies, Tibolone exerts estrogenic effects on the thermoregulatory system, vaginal tissue and bone, but does not display estrogenic activity on breast or the endometrium. Tibolone's promising effects on bone are also currently under investigation for the prevention of osteoporosis in women who are likely to develop this condition. (1) Pavlov, P. W., et al. Gynecol. Endocrinol. 1999;13: 230-237, 2) Tibolone of LIVIAL® (Livial) (~~Livial~~). A new steroid for the menopause. Drug Ther. Bull. 1991;29:77-8, 3) Moore R. A. Systematic and economical review for of LIVIAL® ~~Livial~~. In: Rymer J (Ed.), of LIVIAL® ~~Livial~~: A review of clinical studies. Br.J.Gynaecol. 1999;106 (3 Suppl. 19) 1).